

# S.A.T. Newsletter



## Inside this issue:

Preliminary Meeting Schedule	2
President's Message	3
Business Meeting Minutes	4-5
Austin Presentations Dec.	6
Back Page 411	7

The Toxicology staff of the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office is pleased to announce that the Spring SAT meeting will be held at the historic Sheraton Gunter Hotel in downtown San Antonio. The meeting will begin on Thursday April 30th with the President's Reception and will conclude on Saturday May 2nd with a pipetting workshop. We will also be having dinner Friday night at the Rio Rio Cantina.

We have reserved the third floor of the restaurant which includes a full bar and balcony that overlooks the Riverwalk. The banquet is included in your registration fee.

We have a full and exciting scientific session planned for your stay in the Alamo City. Returning to speak to us again is Dr. Miguel Fernandez from the South Texas Poison Center. We are also looking forward to an interesting talk from Texas A&M on entomology. The pipetting workshop will be a hands-on demonstration and competition put on by the staff at the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office. Ladies and gentlemen, start your bulbs!



## Points of Interest

- Dr. Miguel Fernandez—South Texas Poison Center
- Drugs in Bugs!
- Pipetting Workshop
- Riverwalk
- Sheraton Gunter
- Rio Rio Cantina

## What happened to our newsletter? Is it on a diet?

Our website, [www.sat-tox.org](http://www.sat-tox.org), has undergone a major facelift and was rolled out prior to the most recent meeting in Austin last December. As discussed in recent board and business meetings, the website will be more of a resource for our members for current news and information about upcoming meetings, as well as a spot to find various forms such as registration, grant, and new membership applications. All of the meeting information for San Antonio was disseminated through the website and the Yahoo! Group. The newsletter will now serve more in the capacity as an archive of recent meeting presentations and meeting minutes. We know we had some kinks in the process, and appreciate your comments and ask for your patience. Without the formerly ubiquitous forms inserted throughout, you may have noticed that the newsletter is much slimmer!

## San Antonio 2009—Preliminary Meeting Itinerary

Thursday, April 30

12:00 PM-04:00 PM	Board Meeting
06:00 PM-08:00 PM	President's Reception

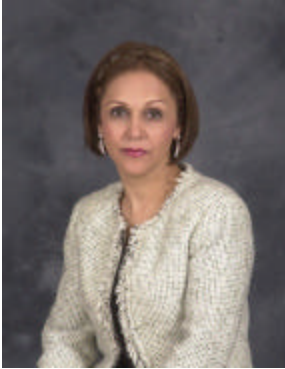
Friday, May 1

07:00 AM-08:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet
08:00 AM-09:00 AM	Business Meeting
09:00 AM-09:20 AM	Break
09:20 AM-09:30 AM	Maury Dennis "Expert Witness in Alcohol Cases"
09:30 AM-10:15 AM	Miguel Fernandez (South Texas Poison Center)
10:15 AM-10:45 AM	Chris Heartsill (Dallas Co.)
10:45 AM-11:40 AM	Jeff Tomberlin and Rachel Mohr (Texas A&M Entomology)
11:40 AM-01:00 PM	Lunch (included in registration)
01:00 PM-01:20 PM	Monica Brady (SHSU)
01:20 PM-01:40 PM	Mitzi Rettinger (Cerilliant)
01:40 PM-02:00 PM	Jameaker Dumas (Harris Co.)
02:00 PM-02:20 PM	Rasleen Lamba (Harris Co.)
02:20 PM-02:40 PM	Fu Tian (Harris Co.)
02:40 PM-03:00 PM	Break
03:00 PM-03:30 PM	Nalini Sadagopan (Agilent)
03:30 PM-03:50 PM	Tiffany Flowers (Bexar Co.)
03:50 PM-04:15 PM	Jason Cole (Thermo Fisher Scientific)
04:15 PM-05:00 PM	Vincent Papa "Phosphatidyl Ethanol..."
06:30 PM-09:00 PM	Dinner at Rio Rio (included in registration)

Saturday, May 2

07:30 AM-08:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet
08:30 AM-09:00 AM	Vincent Papa "BAC Tracker..."
09:00 AM-09:30 AM	Greg Jellick (Bexar Co.)
09:30 AM-10:00 AM	Ning Chang (Cerilliant)
10:00 AM-10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM-11:30 AM	Pipetting Workshop (Bexar County)
11:30 AM-12:00 N	Open Discussion and Concluding Remarks

## President's Message



By now I'm sure most of you are aware of the recent report of the National Academy of Sciences on the state of the forensic sciences in the United States. Since most of us work in organizations that are subject to periodic inspections by various accrediting agencies, we aren't strangers to the concept of having someone peek in through the window and tell us what we're doing wrong. We have learned to view these inspections as vehicles by which we can improve our performance and improve the quality of the product we provide to the legal community. We should view this report in the same light, as an opportunity for improvement.

The NAS report mentions the word "toxicology" 23 times in its 254 pages if we exclude the names of organizations. Initially I viewed this as a bit of a slight, but after digesting it for a couple of weeks I'm beginning to view it in a different light. I now feel that our lack of special attention was due, at least in part, to the fact that we have already implemented variations of many of the recommendations put forward by the authors of the report.

The toxicology discipline has done a reasonably good job of policing itself over the past many years. Many of the recommendations in the NAS report are already in place in many toxicology laboratories. Toxicology has several accrediting bodies, we have proficiency testing programs available to us, we have certifying examinations available to many of our members, our quality control is good and many of our laboratories are pseudo-autonomous, at least in the sense that they are not under the direct supervision of a law enforcement agency.

However, this does not mean that toxicology doesn't have room for improvement. The NAS report recommends establishment of a National Institute of Forensic Sciences (NIFS). The NIFS would establish a national code of ethics for forensic science professionals, with enforcement powers. Also recommended was the mandatory certification for all practitioners of the forensic sciences and mandatory accreditation for all forensic laboratories.

Our profession is coming under increasing scrutiny, in many cases with justification. We need to move beyond the historical situation where, as stated in the report, "nearly anyone with a garage and some capital theoretically could open a forensics laboratory and start offering services." Accreditation and certification ensure that our work is valid and is viewed as such by the public and the legal community.

Let's all of us be far from viewing this report as an unjustified criticism of the forensic sciences, and see it as a blueprint for making our profession better.

See you in San Antonio.

Ashraf Mozayani

## Fall 2008 SAT Business Meeting Minutes Austin, TX

Call to Order – Dr. Ashraf Mozayani

1. Acknowledgement of meeting host Brad Hall
2. Officer's Reports
  - A. Secretary's Report
    1. Resignation of Connie Huber and appointment of Greg Jellick as interim secretary announced.
    2. Motion to accept Spring 2008 meeting minutes as posted in newsletter made by Glenn Harrison, Mike Frontz- second; Motion passed.
  - B. Treasurer's Report
    1. Kathy Erwin handed out summary of treasurer's report to membership. Motion to accept report made by Mike Frontz, Jim Burris-second; Motion passed.
    2. Signature card was updated with board member signatures of Paola Merritt, Amy Scarafile, Greg Jellick.
    3. Annual audit of SAT books has been permanently moved to Spring meeting of each year.
    4. Last website payment pending completion of site/CMS system.

### III. Committee Reports

- A. Grant Committee
  1. Brad Hall announced receipt of 3 research grant applications; Kassie Woodard, Brittany Hardy, Charlotte Smith-Baker. Each was awarded a \$500 grant.
- B. Membership Committee
  1. Amy Scarafile announced receipt of 3 membership applications; Emily Esquivel, Chris Fontenot, and Erin Spargo. Board recommended approval of applicants. Membership approved with unanimous vote.
  2. Joe Castorena received Emeritus status.
- C. Communications Committee
  1. New website discussed. Anticipating an abstract search feature. Garry Metcalfe announced as new webmaster. Garry encouraged timely submission of website items and information in order for timely updating of site. SAT Yahoo groups page demonstrated. Call made for more SAT members to join group site.
- D. Teller Committee
  1. Results of election announced.  
President Elect- Paola Merritt.  
Treasurer- Kathy Erwin.  
Councilor: Amy Scarafile.
  2. Motion to accept Teller Report made by Mike Frontz, Vince Papa- second; Motion passed.

*Greg Jellick was  
appointed interim  
secretary*

*A Constitutional Review  
Committee was  
announced*

#### IV. Old Business

#### V. New Business

- A. Future Meeting Report
  1. April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 San Antonio, TX.  
SAT Spring meeting at Sheraton Gunter Hotel. Mike Frontz reported agenda on track and made call for abstracts.
  2. October 18-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 Oklahoma City, OK.  
SOFT/SAT Business meeting at OKC Cox Convention Center. Garry Metcalfe addressed membership and encouraged membership to attend.
  3. Empty 2010 dates.
- B. Officer Nominations
  1. Announcement of candidates for officer positions.  
Secretary- Greg Jellick.  
Councilor- Justin Schwane and Vincent Papa.  
President Elect- Terry Danielson.
  2. Call for nominations from floor. No nominations from floor.  
Motion to close nominations by Mike Frontz. Jim Burris- second.  
Motion passed.
- C. Nomination of Teller Committee members
  1. Anna Schell, Alexis Willcox, Lisa Christensen (Texas DPS)
- D. Discussion of weekday meetings vs. weekend meetings. Not mandated.
- E. Announcement of a Constitutional Review Committee to be composed of 2 past presidents and one other member.

#### V. Meeting Adjournment at 9:41 AM

### About the Fall 2009 Meeting

Our fall meeting will be held in Oklahoma City in conjunction with SOFT, October 18-23. We will be holding a board meeting and a general business meeting, but not a separate scientific session. Please visit [www.soft-tox.org](http://www.soft-tox.org) for more information about registration and hotels in Oklahoma City. We are privileged to have the larger national organization visit our region for the second time in just four years, and encourage all S.A.T. members who might not ordinarily have access to this group to make every effort to attend. Our regular vendors will no doubt be present, as well as many others who might not attend an S.A.T. meeting. In addition, there are many different workshops and other opportunities all within a day's drive from most of us.

Editor's note– We were unable to include abstracts for the Austin meeting in this edition of the newsletter. Below is the list of titles presented.

### SAT Fall 2008 – Austin, Texas

Thursday, December 4, 2008	
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm	SAT Board Meeting
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Vendor Set-Up – Classroom 103
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Registration – Outside Classroom 103
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	President's Reception – Tejas
Friday, December 5, 2008	
7:00 am to 8:15 am	Continental Breakfast/Registration – Outside Classroom 103
8:15 am to 8:30 am	Welcoming Remarks – Classroom 106 (location of all presentations)
8:30 am to 9:30 am	Keynote Addresses: Medicamentum Fatalis: Deadly Medication Misadventures - Emory S. Martin III, PharmD, BCPS Asst. Executive Director of Pharmacy Services at Scott & White Hospital & Clinics.
9:30 am to 10:30 am	Break with Vendors ( <b>Sponsored by Immunalysis</b> )
10:30 am to 10:50 am	Increasing HPLC/MS/MS Sample Throughput in the Toxicology Laboratory" Gregory Eppink – Applied Biosystems
10:50 am to 11:20 am	Galveston Drinking Study: A Review, Analysis, and Lessons Learned – Vincent Papa
11:20 am to 11:50 am	Qualitative General Screen – The GBI Experience – Mike Frontz
11:50 am to 1:15 pm	Lunch – provided – buffet in conference center restaurant
1:15 pm to 1:45 pm	The Hairspray Defense to Intoxication – Jeff Swain, Assistant DA Fort Worth
1:45 pm to 2:45 pm	Forensic Toxicology at the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office – Brad Hall
2:45 pm to 3:15 pm	Afternoon Break ( <b>Sponsored by Regis</b> )
3:15 pm to 4:00 pm	Dr. David Dolinak, Chief Medical Examiner, Travis County
4:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Leanne Courtney, Forensic Nurse Investigator, Travis County Medical Examiner's Office
4:30 pm to 5:00 pm	Open Discussion
Saturday, December 6, 2008	
7:30 am to 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
8:30 am to 9:45 am	SAT Business Meeting
9:45 am to 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am to 10:40 am	Evaluating Selected Internal Standards for Your GC/MS Opiate Analysis -Matthew Lambing – Thermo Fisher Scientific
10:40 am – 11:00 am	Alcohol and Drugs in Fatally-Injured Drivers in Harris County, Echerika Compton, BS – Harris County Medical Examiner's Office
11:00 am to 11:20 am	Carbon Monoxide Deaths from Hurricane Ike in Harris County, Dana R. Smith - Harris County Medical Examiner's Office
11:20 am to 12:00 pm	Open Discussion



## SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF TOXICOLOGISTS

### *How do I...*

*...access the membership directory  
or by-laws?*

Visit <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/sat-tox>  
and visit the "files" section

*...notify of an address change?*

Contact our secretary, Greg Jellick at  
[gjellick@bexar.org](mailto:gjellick@bexar.org)  
and our treasurer, Kathy Erwin at  
(512) 424-2105  
[kjerwin@suddenlink.net](mailto:kjerwin@suddenlink.net)

## S.A.T. Board of Directors 2008-2009

President: 2008-2009	Ashraf Mozayani Harris County Medical Examiner's Office Joseph A. Jachimczyk Forensic Science Center (713) 796-6834 <a href="mailto:Ashraf.mozayani@meo.hctx.net">Ashraf.mozayani@meo.hctx.net</a>
President- Elect: 2008-2009	Paola Merritt AmeriTox (432) 571-8336 <a href="mailto:paola.merritt@ameritox.com">paola.merritt@ameritox.com</a>
Past Presi- dent: 2008-2009	Jim Burris Texas Department of Public Safety (512) 424-2105 <a href="mailto:James.burris@txdps.state.tx.us">James.burris@txdps.state.tx.us</a>
Secretary: 2007-2009	Greg Jellick Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office (210)335-4072 <a href="mailto:gjellick@bexar.org">gjellick@bexar.org</a>
Treasurer: 2008-2010	Kathy Erwin Texas Department of Public Safety (512) 424-2105 <a href="mailto:kathy.erwin@txdps.state.tx.us">kathy.erwin@txdps.state.tx.us</a> <a href="mailto:kjerwin@suddenlink.net">kjerwin@suddenlink.net</a>
Councilor: 2008-2010	Amy Scarafile AmeriTox (432) 571-8371 <a href="mailto:amy.scarafile@ameritox.com">amy.scarafile@ameritox.com</a>
Councilor: 2007-2009	Justin Schwane Dallas County Institute of Forensic Science (214) 920-5831 <a href="mailto:jschwane@dallascounty.org">jschwane@dallascounty.org</a>

**New members!**

Emily Esquivel  
Chris Fontenot  
Erin Spargo

**WELCOME TO S.A.T. !!**

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Oklahoma City  
Co-meeting with SOFT  
October 18-23, 2009**

S.A.T. Newsletter is published online twice a year  
Editor: Michael Frontz- [mefron@bexar.org](mailto:mefron@bexar.org)  
Communications Committee:  
Glenn Harrison- [glenn.harrison@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:glenn.harrison@txdps.state.tx.us)  
Garry Metcalfe- [G\\_Metcalfe@ocmeokc.state.ok.us](mailto:G_Metcalfe@ocmeokc.state.ok.us)  
Michael Frontz- [mefron@bexar.org](mailto:mefron@bexar.org)